

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/915,530

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Lemilainen et al. (USP 6,766,160). The Examiner has asserted that a PIN code 22 in Lemilainen teaches the recited user authentication information. Applicants respectfully disagree. Briefly, in the claimed invention, the user authentication information is for authenticating a user of a wireless terminal in a radio communication network. However, in Lemilainen, the PIN code 22 is only used to identify a Bluetooth transceiver circuitry.

Applicants realized that the verification described in the Bluetooth standard is uniquely based on a device identification, and a lot of applications requiring a user authentication are not possible over the short-range wireless Bluetooth interface. One example is that the authentication of the user is required for authorizing a service terminal provider to be credited the amount of money required for services when the services provided by a service terminal are preferably billed to the user. Another example is that the authentication of the user is required to preserve confidentiality when services provided by a service terminal are confidential. The purpose of the present application is to provide a method for user authentication over a short-range wireless interface (Specification, page 3).

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the present application, the invention first performs device identification at step 22, using a unique 48-bit address identifying each Bluetooth capable device; and then performs a user authentication at step 24, comparing a user authentication information

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/915,530

from a hybrid wireless terminal 11 against a database 15 containing user authentication information of all users authorized to perform a secured transaction with a service terminal 12.

On the other hand, Lemilainen only teaches device identification. Lemilainen provides a method for facilitating authentication of communication stations in a mobile communication system. The contribution of Lemilainen is that it provides automated authentication, so the user interaction required in its prior art is not needed anymore (Lemilainen, col. 2, lines 37-40). The PIN code 22 is associated with Bluetooth transceiver circuitry 18 of a mobile terminal 12, and uniquely identifies the Bluetooth transceiver circuitry 18 (Lemilainen, col. 5, lines 19-21).

Thus, Lemilainen fails to teach or suggest the claimed user authentication information for authenticating a user in a radio communication network, and authenticating a user with the user authentication information at a service terminal of a short-range wireless network. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 are patentable.

2. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lemilainen in view of Ketcham (USP 6,075,860). Applicants respectfully disagree, because the Examiner's combination of the references is improper.

As discussed above, Lemilainen provides automated authentication to avoid user interaction. Lemilainen does not indicate in any way that user authentication is needed or preferred.

On the other hand, Ketcham provides a method for authenticating an authorized user prior to permitting access to a computer network. As shown in Fig. 1 of Ketcham, a wireless

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 09/915,530

modem 110 facilitates wireless communication 114 between a remote terminal 102 and a computer network 104, and a card reader 116 provides an interface for the remote terminal 102 to receive mobile subscriber identifiers and authentication keys from an authentication card 118. Ketcham has nothing to do with short-range wireless transaction.

Thus, there is not motivation or suggestion to combine Lemilainen and Ketcham. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 is patentable for this additional reason as well.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

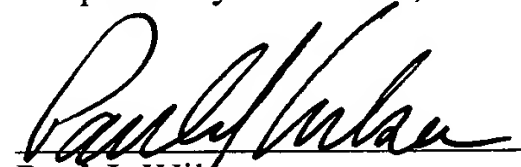
WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


Paul J. Wilson
Registration No. 45,879